

Appl. No. 10/774,768  
Atty. Docket No. 9490  
Amdt. dated March 1, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 1, 2005  
Customer No. 27752

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a front region, a back region, a belt zone extending circumferentially about the absorbent article, a wearer-facing surface, and a garment-facing surface; said absorbent article comprising:
  - a) a chassis;
  - b) at least one sidewall adjacently disposed to the chassis and connecting the front region to the back region thereby forming a leg opening and a waist edge; said sidewall comprising an ear or a panel, and
  - c) at least one handle for assisting in the application of the article onto a wearer; wherein the handle is a flap comprising a stratum, wherein the flap forms a gap between the stratum and the chassis or sidewall, wherein said flap is joined to the garment-facing surface of the article by opposing longitudinal welds disposed proximate to opposing distal longitudinal edges of the flap, wherein the handle is disposed adjacent to either the chassis or sidewall and  
wherein the absorbent article is a pull-on garment.
2. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the chassis further comprises a liquid pervious topsheet, a liquid impervious backsheet joined with the topsheet, and an absorbent core interposed between the topsheet and backsheet.
3. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 2 wherein the backsheet further comprises at least a nonwoven outer cover.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 1 ~~claim 4~~ wherein the flap comprises a unitary construction; wherein said stratum is a portion of the belt zone that has been folded away from the wearer-facing surface of the article at a hinge point.
6. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 1 ~~claim 4~~ wherein the flap comprises a multiple construction; wherein said stratum is discrete.
- 7-20. (Cancelled)
21. (Currently Amended) A kit for toilet training an infant comprising:

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- a) the article of claim 1 in the form of a training pant and
  - b) an instruction to ~~the~~ a caregiver for transitioning the infant to proper toilet use.
22. (Original) A kit comprising more than one absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the article is positioned within said kit such that the handle is readily accessible.
23. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein said flap has a lateral width and a longitudinal length, wherein said lateral width is greater than the longitudinal length.
24. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 5 wherein said stratum comprises a cut through a portion of the stratum, wherein said cut is disposed along the waist edge.
25. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 5 wherein said stratum is joined to the garment-facing surface of the article by a lateral weld disposed substantially laterally and in proximity to the waist edge.
26. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 6 wherein said stratum is joined to the garment-facing surface of the article by a lateral weld disposed substantially laterally and in proximity to the waist edge.
27. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the handle is disposed adjacent to the sidewall.
28. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 27 wherein the sidewall has a width and wherein the handle laterally spans said width of the sidewall.
29. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the sidewall comprises a single ear or panel.
30. (New) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the sidewall comprises more than one ear or panel, wherein said ears or panels are connected to each other by a welding means selected from a group consisting of sonic sealing, heat sealing, pressure bonding, adhesive or cohesive bonding, sewing, and autogeneous bonding.
31. (New) The kit of Claim 21 wherein the instruction to the caregiver for transitioning the infant to proper toilet use includes use of the handle.
32. (New) The kit of Claim 21 wherein the instruction to the caregiver for transitioning the infant to proper toilet use includes description of a behavior modification.
33. (New) A kit toilet training an infant comprising:

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- a) a plurality of training pants having a front region, a back region, a belt zone extending circumferentially about the absorbent article, a wearer-facing surface, and a garment-facing surface; each said training pant comprising:
  - i) a chassis;
  - ii) at least one sidewall adjacently disposed to the chassis and connecting the front region to the back region thereby forming a leg opening and a waist edge; said sidewall comprising an ear or a panel, and
  - iii) at least one handle for assisting in the application of the training pant onto a wearer; wherein the handle is a flap comprising a stratum, wherein the flap forms a gap between the stratum and the chassis or sidewall, said flap having a lateral width greater than the longitudinal length, wherein the lateral width is substantially parallel to the waist edge, wherein the handle is disposed adjacent to the sidewall;
- b) a thermoplastic film covering the plurality of training pants; and
- c) an instruction to a caregiver for transitioning the infant to proper toilet use.